Natus Maij 29. An. 1630. Ætatis suæ 19.

Natus Maij 29. An. 1630. Ætatis suæ 19.

THE PRE-EMINENCE AND PEDIGREE OF PARLEMENT.

Wherunto is added

A Vindication of ſome Paſſages reflecting upon the Author,

In a Booke call'd

The Popiſh Royall Favorite,

Pen'd and Publiſhed by Mr. *Prynne*; wherein he ſtiles him,

No Frend to Parlements, and a Malignant, Pag. 42.

With a clearing of ſom Occurrences in *Spain* at His MAIESTIES being there, cited by the ſaid Maſter *Prynne* out of the *Vocal Foreſt.*

By *J. H.* Eſq; One of the Clerks of His MAIESTIES moſt Honorable Privy-Councel.

Publiſhed by ſpeciall Order.

London Printed by *W. W.* for *Humphrey Moſeley*, 1649.

TO

My worthily honored Frend,

Sir *W. S.* Knight.

SIR,

I *Have many thanks to give you for the Book you pleased to send me, called* The Popish Royall Favorite; *and according to your advice (which I value in a high degree) I put Pen to Paper, and som thing you may see I have don (though in a poor Pamphleting way) to clear my self of those aspersions that are cast upon me therin. But truly Sir, I was never so unfit for such a task; al my papers, Manuscripts, and Notes, having been long since seized upon and kept from me. Add hereunto, that besides this long pressure and languishment of twenty three moneths close restraint (the sense whereof, I find hath much stupified my spirits) it pleased God to visit me lately with a dangerous fit of sicknes, a high burning Fever, with the*

new Disease, wherof my Body *as well as my* Mind, *is yet somwhat crazy: So that (take all afflictions together) I may truly say, I have passed the* Ordeal, *the fiery Tryal. But it hath pleased God to reprieve me to see better days I hope; for out of this fatal black* Cloud, *which now oresets this poor* Island, *I hope ther will break a glorious Sun-shine of peace and firm happines: To effect which, had I a* Jury, *a* Grand-Jury *of lives, I would sacrifice them all, and triumph in the oblation.*

So I most affectionately kisse your hands, and rest

Your faithful
(though afflicted)
Servant,

From the Prison
of the *Fleet.*

J. H.

The

The Pre-eminence of *Parlement.*

Sectio Prima.

I Am a free-born *Subject* of the Realm of *England*; wherby I claim as my native Inheritance, an undoubted right, propriety, and portion in the Laws of the Land: And this distinguisheth me from a *Slave.* I claim also an intereſt and common right in the High National Court of *Parlement*, and in the Power, the Priviledges and Jurisdiction therof, which I put in equal ballance with the *Laws*, in regard it is the *Fountain whence they ſpring:* And this I hold also to be a principal part of my Birth-right; which great Councel I honour, reſpect, value, and love in as high a degree as can be; as being the *Bulwark of our Liberties, the main boundary and bank which keep us from ſlavery, from the inundations of tyrannical Rule, and unbounded Wil-government.* And I hold my ſelf obliged in a tye of indiſpenſable obedience to conform and ſubmit my ſelf to whatſoever ſhall be tranſacted, concluded, and conſtituted by its authority in *Church* or *State*; whether it be by making, enlarging, altering, diminiſhing, diſanulling, repealing, or reviving of any Law, Statute, Act, or Ordinance whatſoever, either touching matters Eccleſiaſticall,

Civil, Common, Capital, Criminal, Martial, Maritine, Municipal, or any other; of all which, the transcendent and uncontrolable Jurisdiction of that Court is capable to take cognizance.

Amongst the three things which the *Athenian* Captain thank'd the gods for, one was, That he was born a *Grecian*, and not a *Barbarian*. For such was the vanity of the *Greeks*, and after them of the *Romans*, in the flouriſh of their Monarchy, to arrogate all civility to themselves, and to term all the world besides *Barbarians*: So I may say to have cause to rejoyce, that I was born a vassall to the Crown of *England*; that I was born under so well moulded and tempered a Government, which indows the Subject with such Liberties and Infranchisements that bear up his natural courage, and keep him still in heart; such Liberties that fence and secure him eternally from the gripes and tallons of *Tyranny*: And all this may be imputed to the Authority and Wisdom of this High Court of *Parlement*, wherin ther is such a rare co ordination of power (though the Soverainty remaine still entire, and untransferable in the person of the Prince) ther is, I say, such a wholsom mixture 'twixt *Monarchy*, *Optimacy*, and *Democracy*; 'twixt Prince, Peers, and Communalty, during the time of consultation, that of so many distinct parts, by a rare co operation and unanimity, they make but one *Body Politic*, (like that Sheaf of Arrows in the Emblem) one entire concentrical peece; and the results of their deliberations, but as so many harmonious diapasons arising from different strings. And what greater immunity and happines can ther be to a people, than to be liable to no Laws but what they make themselves? To be subject to no Contribution, Assessment, or any pecuniary levy whatsoever, but what they Vote, and voluntarily yeeld unto themselves? For in this compacted

compacted *Politic Body*, ther be all degrees of people repreſented; both the Mechanick, Tradeſman, Merchant, and Yeoman, have their incluſive Vote, as well as the Gentry, in the perſons of their Truſtees, their Knights and Burgeſſes, in paſſing of all things. Nor is this Soverain Surintendent Councell an Epitome of this Kingdom onely, but it may be ſaid to have a repreſentation of the whole Univerſe; as I heard a fluent well-worded *Knight* deliver the laſt *Parlement*, who compared the beautifull compoſure of that High Court, to the great VVorke of God, the World it ſelf: The King to the Sun, the Nobles to the fixed Stars, the Itinerant Judges and other Officers (that go upon Meſſages 'twixt both Houſes) to the Panets; the Clergy to the Element of fire; the Commons, to the ſolid *Body* of Earth, and the reſt of the Elements. And to purſue this compariſon a little farther; as the heavenly Bodies, when three of them meet in *Conjunction*, do uſe to produce ſom admirable effects in the Elementary World: So when theſe *three States* convene and aſſemble in one ſolemn great *Junto*, ſome notable and extraordinary things are brought forth, tending to the welfare of the whole Kingdom, our *Microcoſm*.

HE that is never ſo little verſed in the Annales of this Iſle, will find that it hath bin her fate to be four times *conquered*. I exclude the *Scot*; for the ſituation of his Countrey, and the quality of the Clime hath bin ſuch an advantage and ſecurity to him, that neither the *Roman Eagles* would fly thither, for fear of Freezing their Wings; nor any other Nation attempt the work.

Theſe ſo many Conqueſts muſt needs bring with them many tumblings and toſſings, many diſturbances and changes in Government; yet I have obſerved,

that notwithstanding these tumblings, it retained still the form of a *Monarchy*, and somthing ther was alwaies that had an Analogy with the great Assembly the *Parlement*.

The first Conquest I find was made by *Claudius Cæsar*; at which time (as som well observe) the *Roman Enfigns* and the *Standard of Christ* came in together. It is well known what Laws the *Roman* had; He had his *Comitia*, which bore a resemblance with our Convention in *Parlement*; the place of their meetings was called *Prætorium*, and the Laws which they enacted, *Plebiscita*.

The *Saxon* Conquest succeeded next, which were the *Englisb*, ther being no name in *Welsh* or *Irish* for an *Englishman*, but *Saxon*, to this day. They governed by *Parlement*, though it were under other names; as *Michel Sinoth*, *Michel Gemote*, and *Witenage Mote*.

Ther are Records above a thousand yeers old, of these *Parlements*, in the Raigns of King *Ina*, *Offa*, *Ethelbert*, and the rest of the seven Kings during the *Heptarchy*. The *British* Kings also, who retain'd a great while som part of the Isle unconquered, governed and made Laws by a kind of *Parlementary* way; witness the famous Laws of Prince *Howel*, called *Howel Dha*, (the good Prince *Howel*) wherof ther are yet extant som Welsh Records. *Parlements* were also used after the *Heptarchy* by King *Kenulphus*, *Alphred*, and others; witness that renowned *Parlement* held at *Grately* by King *Athelstan*.

The third Conquest was by the *Danes*, and they govern'd also by such general Assemblies, (as they do to this day) witness that great and so much celebrated *Parlement* held by that mighty Monarch *Canutus*, who was King of *England*, *Denmark*, *Norway*, and other Regions 150 yeers before the compiling of *Magna Charta*; and this the learned in the Laws do hold

hold to be one of the ſpecialeſt, and moſt authentic peeces of Antiquity we have extant. *Edward* the Confeſſor made all his Laws thus, (and he was a great *Legis-lator*) which the *Norman* Conquerour (who liking none of his ſons, made God Almighty his heir, bequeathing unto him this Iſland for a Legacy) did ratifie and eſtabliſh, and digeſted them into one entire methodical Syſteme, which being violated by *Rufus*, (who came to ſuch a diſaſtrous end, as to be ſhot to death in lieu of a *Buck* for his ſacrileges) were reſtor'd by *Henry* the firſt, and ſo they continued in force till King *John*, whoſe raign is renowned for firſt confirming *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our Liberties ever ſince: Which may be compar'd to divers *Outlandiſh Graffs ſet upon one Engliſh ſtock, or to a Poſie of ſundry fragrant Flowers*; for the choiſeſt of the *Britiſh*, the *Roman*, *Saxon*, *Daniſh*, and *Norman* Laws, being cull'd and pick'd out, and gathered as it were into one bundle, out of them the foreſaid *grand Charter* was extracted: And the eſtabliſhment of this great Charter was the work of a *Parlement*.

Nor are the Laws of this *Iſland* onely, and the freedom of the Subject conſerved by *Parlement*, but al the beſt policed Countryes of *Europ* have the like. The *Germanes* have their *Diets*, the *Danes* and *Swedes* the *Riicks Dachs*; the *Spaniard* calls his *Parlement Las Cortes*, and the *French* have (or ſhould have at leaſt) their *Aſſembly of three States*, though it be grown now in a manner obſolete, becauſe the Authority therof was (by accident) devolv'd to the *King*. And very remarkable it is, how this hapned; for when the *Engliſh* had taken ſuch large footing in moſt parts of *France*, having advanced as far as *Orleans*, and driven their then King *Charls* the ſeventh to *Bourges* in *Berry*: the *Aſſembly of the three States* in theſe preſſures, being not able to meet after the uſual manner

in full *Parlement*, becauſe the Country was unpaſſable the enemy having made ſuch firm invaſions up and down through the very bowels of the Kingdom; that power which formerly was inherent in the *Parlementary Aſſembly*, of making Laws, of aſſeſſing the Subject with Taxes, ſubſidiary levies, and other impoſitions, was tranſmitted to the *King* during the VVar; which continuing many yeers, that intruſted power by length of time grew as it were habitual in him, and could never after be re-aſſumed and taken from him; ſo that ever ſince, his *Edicts* countervail *Acts* of *Parlement*. And that which made the buſines more feaſable for the *King*, was, that the burthen fell moſt upon the Communalty (the Clergy and Nobility not feeling the weight of it) who were willing to ſee the *Peaſan* pull'd down a little, becauſe, not many yeers before in that notable Rebellion, call'd *La Jaquerie de Beauvoiſin*, which was ſuppreſſed by *Charls the wiſe*, the common people put themſelves boldly in Arms againſt the Nobility and Gentry, to leſſen their power. Add hereunto as an advantage to the work, that the next ſucceeding King *Lewis the eleventh*, was a cloſe cunning Prince, and could well tell how to play his game, and draw water to his owne Mill; For amongſt all the reſt, he was ſaid to be the firſt that put the Kings of *France*, *Hors de page*, out of their minority, or from being *Pages* any more, though thereby he brought the poor *Peaſans* to be worſe than *Lacquays*.

VVith the fall, or at leaſt the diſcontinuance, of that uſuall *Parlementary Aſſembly* of the *three States*, the liberty of the *French* Nation utterly fell; the poor *Roturier* and Vineyard-man, with the reſt of the Yeomanry, being reduced ever ſince to ſuch an abject *aſinin* condition, that *they ſerve but as ſponges for the King to ſqueeze when he liſt*. Nevertheles, as that *King* hath

hath an advantage hereby one way, to *monarchize* more absolutely, and never to want money, but to *ballast his Purse* when he will: so ther is another mighty inconvenience ariseth to him and his whole Kingdom another way; for this illegal peeling of the poor *Peasan* hath so dejected him, and cowed his native courage so much by the sense of poverty (*which brings along with it a narrownes of soul*) that he is little useful for the VVar: which puts the *Freneh* King to make other Nations mercenary to him, to fill up his *Infantry*: Insomuch, that the Kingdom of *France* may be not unfitly compared to a body that hath all its blood drawn up into the Arms, Breast and Back, and scarce any left from the Girdle downwards, to cherish and bear up the lower parts, and keep them from starving.

All this seriously considered, ther cannot be a more proper and pregnant example than this of our *next Neighbours*, to prove how infinitely necessary the *Parlement* is, to assert, to prop up, and preserve the Public Liberty, and National Rights of a people, with the incolumity and welfare of a Countrey.

Nor doth the *Subject* onely reap benefit thus by *Parlement*, but the *Prince* (if it be well confider'd) hath equall advantage therby; It rendreth him a King of *free* and *able* men, which is far more glorious than to be a King of *Slaves*, *Beggers*, and *Bankrupts*; Men that by their freedom, and competency of wealth are kept still in heart to doe him service against any forrain force. And it is a true maxim in all States, that 'tis lesse danger and dishonour for the Prince to be poor, than his people: Rich Subjects can make their King rich when they please; if he gaine their hearts, he will quickly get their purses: *Parlement* encreaseth love and good intelligence 'twixt him and his people; it acquaints him with the reality of things,

and

and with the true ſtate and diſeaſes of his Kingdome; it brings him to the knowledg of his better ſort of Subjects, and of their abilities, which he may employ accordingly upon all occaſions; it provides for his Royall Iſſue, payes his debts, finds means to fill his Coffers: And it is no ill obſervation, The *Parlementary-moneys* (the *great Aid*) have proſpered beſt with the Kings of *England*; it exceedingly raiſeth his repute abroad, and enableth him to keep his *foes in feare, his Subjects in awe, his Neighbours and Confederates in ſecurity*, the three main things which go to aggrandize a Prince, and render him glorious. In ſum, it is the *Parlement* that ſupports, and bears up the honour of his Crown, and ſettles his Throne in ſafety, which is the chief end of all their conſultations: For whoſoever is intruſted to be a Member of this High Court, carrieth with him a double capacity; he ſits there as a *Patriot*, and as a *Subject*: As he is the one, the Countrey is his object, his duty being to vindicate the Publike Liberty, to make wholſom Laws, to put his hand to the pump, and ſtop the leaks of the great veſſell of the State: to pry into and puniſh corruption and oppreſſion, to improve and advance trade, to have the grievances of the place he ſerves for redreſſed, and caſt about how to find ſomthing that may tend to the advantage of it.

But he muſt not forget that he ſits ther alſo as a *Subject*, and according to that capacity, he muſt apply himſelf to do his *Soveraigns* buſines, to provide not onely for his *publike*, but his *perſonal* wants; to bear up the luſtre and glory of his *Court*; to conſider what occaſions of extraordinary expences he may have, by encreaſe of Royall Iſſue, or maintenance of any of them abroad; to enable him to vindicate any affront or indignity that might be offered to his Perſon, Crown, or Dignity, by any *forrain* State or Kingdome.

too

to consult what may enlarge his *honour, contentment* and *pleasure*. And as the *French Tacitus* (*Comines*) hath it, the *English* Nation was used to be more forward and zealous in this particular than any other, according to that ancient eloquent speech of a great *Lawyer*, *Domus Regis vigilia defendit omnium, otium illius labor omnium, deliciæ illius industria omnium, vacatio illius occupatio omnium. salus illius periculum omnium, honor illius objectum omnium.* Every one should stand Centinell to defend the Kings Houses, his *safety* should be the *danger* of all, his *pleasures* the *industry* of all, his *ease* should be the *labour* of all, his *honour* the *object* of all.

Out of these premisses this conclusion may be easily deduced, that, *The principal Founntain whence the King derives his happines and safety, is his Parlement*: It is that great Conduit-Pipe which conveighs unto him his peoples bounty and gratitude; the trueſt Looking-Glasse wherein he discerns their loves; now *the Subjects love hath bin alwayes accounted the prime Cittadel of a Prince*. In his *Parlement* he appears as the Sun in the Meridian, in the altitude of his glory, *in his highest State Royal*, as the Law tels us.

Therfore whosoever is avers or disaffected to this Soveraign Law making Court, cannot have his heart well planted within him: He can be neither good *Subject*, nor good *Patriot*; and therfore unworthy to breathe *English* air, or have any benefit, advantage, or protection from the Laws.

Sectio

Sectio Secunda.

BY that which hath been ſpoken, *which is the language of my heart*, I hope no indifferent judicious Reader will doubt of the cordiall affection, of the high reſpects and due reverence I bear to *Parlement*, as being the wholſomeſt conſtitution (and done by the higheſt and happieſt reach of policy) that ever was eſtabliſhed in this *Iſland*, to perpetuate the happines therof: Therfore I muſt tell that *Gentleman* who was Author of a Book entituled *The Popiſh Royall Favorite*, (lately Printed and expoſed to the world) that he offers me very hard meaſure; nay, he doth me apparent wrong, to tearm me therin *No frend to Parlement, and a Malignant*; A character, which as I *deſerve* it not, ſo I *diſdain* it.

For the firſt part of his charge, I would have him know, that I am as much a *frend, and as real an affectionate humble ſervant & votary* to the *Parlement*, as poſſibly he can be, and will live and die with theſe affections about me: And I could wiſh, that he were Secretary of my thoughts a while; or if I may take the boldnes to apply that compariſon His late Majeſtie uſed in a famous ſpeech to one of his *Parlements*, I could wiſh ther were a Cryſtall VVindow in my Breſt, through which the world might eſpie the inward motions and palpitations of my heart; then would he be certified of the ſincerity of this proteſtation.

For the ſecond part of his charge, to be a *Malignant*, I muſt confeſſe to have ſom *Malignity* that lurks within me,

me, much againſt my will; but it is no *malignity* of *mind*, it is amongſt the *humours*, not in my *intellectuals*. And I beleeve, there is no naturall man, let him have his *humours* never ſo well ballanced, but hath ſom of this *malignity* reigning within him; For as long as we are compoſed of the four *Elements*, whence theſe *humeurs* are derived, and with whom they ſymbolize in qualities; which *Elements* the Philoſophers hold to be in a reſtleſſe contention amongſt themſelves (and the Stoick thought that the world ſubſiſted by this innate mutuall ſtrife) as long, I ſay, as the four *humours*, in imitation of their principles (the *Elements*) are in perpetuall reluctancy and combate for prædominancy, ther muſt be ſome *malignity* lodg'd within us, as aduſted choler, and the like; whereof I had late experience in a dangerous fit of ſickneſs it pleaſed God to lay upon me, which the Phyſitians told me proceeded from the *malignant* hypocondriacal effects of *melancholy*; having been ſo long in this *Saturnine* black condition of cloſe impriſonment, and buried a live between the VVals of this fatal *Fleet*. Theſe kinds of *malignities*, I confeſs are very rife in me, and they are not onely incident, but connaturall to every man according to his complexion: And were it not for this inceſſant ſtrugling and enmity amongſt the *humours* for maſtery, which produceth ſuch *malignant* effects in us, our ſouls would be loth ever to depart from our bodies, or to abandon this manſion of clay.

Now what *malignity* my *Accuſer* means, I know not; if he means *malignity* of *ſpirit*, as ſom antipathy or ill impreſſion upon the mind, ariſing from diſaffection, hatred, or rancor, with a deſire of ſome deſtructive revenge, he is mightily deceiv'd in me; I *malign* or hate no Creature that ever God made, but the *Devill*, who is the Author of all *malignity*; and therfore

therfore is moſt commonly called in French *le Malin Aſprit* the *malignant ſpirit*. Every night before I go to bed, I have the grace, I thank God for it, to forgive all the world, and not to harbour, or let rooſt in my boſom the leaſt *malignant* thought; yet none can deny, but the aſperſions which this my *Accuſer* caſts upon me, were enough to make me a *malignant* towards him; yet it could never have the power to do it: For I have prevail'd with my ſelf to forgive him this his wrong cenſure of me, iſſuing rather from his *not-knowledg* of me, than from *malice*; for we never mingled ſpeech, or ſaw one another in our lives, to my remembrance: which makes me wonder the more, that a Profeſſor of the *Law*, as he is, ſhould pronounce ſuch a poſitive ſentence againſt me ſo ſlightly. But me thinks I over-hear him ſay, That the precedent diſcourſe of *Parlement* is involv'd in generals, and the Topique Axiom tels us, that *Doſus verſatur in univerſalibus*, ther is double dealing in univerſals: His meaning is, that I am no friend to this preſent *Parlement* (though he ſpeaks in the plural number *Parlements*) and conſequently, he concludes me a *Malignant*. Therin, I muſt tell him alſo, that I am traduc'd, and I am confident it will be never prov'd againſt me, from any *Actions*, *words*, or *letters* (though divers of mine have bin intercepted) or any other miſdemeanor, though ſom things are father'd upon me which never drop'd from my Quill. Alas, how unworthy and uncapable am I to cenſure the proceedings of that great *Senate*, that high *Synedrion*, wherin the wiſdom of the whole State is epitomized? It were a preſumption in me, of the higheſt nature that could be: It is enough for me to pray for the proſperous ſucceſs of their conſultations: And as I hold it my *duty*, ſo I have good *reaſon* ſo to do, in regard I am to have my ſhare in the happines; And could the utmoſt of my

my poor endeavours, by any miniſterial humble office (and ſomtimes the meaneſt *Boatſwain* may help to preſerve the Ship from ſinking) be ſo happy, as to contribute any thing to advance that great work (which I am in deſpair to do, while I am thus under *hatches* in this *Fleet*) I would eſteem it the greateſt honour that poſſibly could befall me, as I hold it now to be my greateſt diſaſter, to have faln ſo heavily under an affliction of this nature, and to be made a ſacrifice to *publike fame*, than which ther is no other proof, nor *that* yet urg'd againſt me, or any thing elſe produc'd after ſo long, ſo long captivity, which hath brought me to ſuch a low ebbe, and put me ſo far behind in the courſe of my poor fortunes, and indeed more than half undon me. For although my whole life (ſince I was left to my ſelf to *ſwim*, as they ſay, *without bladders*) has bin nothing elſe but a continued ſucceſſion of croſses, and that ther are but few red letters found (God wot) in the Almanack of my Age, (for which I account not my ſelf a whit the leſſe *happy*;) yet this croſs has carried with it a greater weight; it hath bin of a larger extent, longer continuance, and lighted heavier upon me than any other; and as I have *preſent patience* to bear it, ſo I hope for *ſubſequent grace* to make uſe of it accordingly, that my old Motto may be ſtill confirmed, μαθήματα μαθήματα.

HE produceth my atteſtation for ſom paſsages in *Spain*, at His Majeſties being ther, and he quotes me aright, which obligeth me to him: And I hope all his quotations, wherin he is ſo extraordinarily copious and elaborate in all his works, are ſo; yet I muſt tell him, that thoſe interchangeable Letters which paſsed between His Majeſty and the *Pope*, which were originally couch'd in *Latine*, the language wher-

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in all Nations treat with *Rome*, and the *Empire* with all the Princes thereof; thoſe Letters, I ſay, are adulterated in many places, which I impute not to him, but to the *French Chronicler*, from whom he took them in truſt. The truth of that buſines is this: The world knows ther was a tedious treaty of an Alliance 'twixt the Infanta *Dona Maria* (who now is *Empreſſe*) and His Majeſty, which in regard of the ſlow affected pace of the *Spaniard*, laſted about ten yeers, as that in *Henry* the ſevenths time, 'twixt Prince *Arthur* and (afterwards) Queen *Katherine*, was ſpun out above *ſeven*: To quicken, or rather to *conſummate* the work, His Majeſty made that adventurous journey through the whole Continent of *France* into *Spain*; which voyage, though ther was a great deal of gallantry in it (whereof all poſterity will ring, untill it turn at laſt to a *Romance*) yet it prov'd the bane of the buſines, which 'tis not the arrand of ſo poor a Pamphlet as this to unfold. His Majeſty being ther arriv'd, the ignorant common people cryed out, the *Prince* of *Wales* came thither to make himſelf a *Chriſtian*. The *Pope* writ to the *Inquiſitor General*, and others, to uſe all induſtry they could to reduce him to the *Roman* Religion; And one of *Olivares* firſt complements to him, was, *That he doubted not but that His Highnes came thither to change His Religion*: Wherunto he made a ſhort anſwer, *That he came not thither for a Religion, but for a Wife*. Ther were extraordinay proceſſions made, and other artifices us'd by protraction of things to make him ſtay ther of purpoſe till the Spring following, to work upon him the better: And the *Infanta* her ſelf deſir'd him (which was eſteem'd the greateſt favour he received from her all the while) to viſit the *Nun of Carion*; hoping that the ſaid Nun, who was ſo much cryed up for miracles, might have wrought one upon him; but her art failed her, nor

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was His Highneſſe ſo weak a ſubject to worke upon, according to His late Majeſties ſpeech to Doctor *Mawe* and *Wren*, who when they came to kiſſe his hands, before they went to *Spain* to attend the Prince their Maſter, *He wiſhed them to have a care of Buckingham; as touching his Son* Charls, *he apprehended no fear at all of him; for he knew him to be ſo well grounded a* Proteſtant, *that nothing could ſhake him in his Religion.* The *Arabian* Proverb is, That the Sun never ſoiles in his paſſage, though his Beams reverberate never ſo ſtrongly, and dwell never ſo long upon the Myry lake of *Mæotis*, the black Turf'd Moors of *Holland*, the Aguiſh Wooſe of *Kent* and *Eſſex*, or any other place, be it never ſo dirty. Though *Spain* be a hot Gountry, yet one may paſſe and repaſſe through the very Center of it, and never be Sun-burnt, if he carry with him a *Bongrace*, and ſuch a one His Majeſty had.

Well, after His Majeſties arrival to *Madrid*, the treaty of Marriage went on ſtill, (though hee told them at his firſt coming, that he came not thither like an *Ambaſſadour*, to treat of Marriage; but as a *Prince*, to fetch home a Wife;) and in regard they were of different Religions, it could not be done without a diſpenſation from the *Pope*, and the *Pope* would grant none, unleſſe ſome Capitulations were ſtipulated in favour of the Romiſh Catholics in *England*, (the ſame in ſubſtance were agreed on with *France*.) Well, when the diſpenſation came, which was negotiated ſolely by the King of *Spains* Miniſters; becauſe His Majeſty would have as little to do as might be with *Rome*, Pope *Gregory* the fifteenth, who died a little after, ſent His Majeſty a Letter, which was delivered by the *Nuncio*, wherof an anſwer was ſent a while after: Which Letters were imprinted and expoſed to the view of the world, becauſe His Majeſty would not have people whiſper, that the buſines was carried in a clandeſtine

clandestine manner. And truly besides this, I do not know of any Letter, or Message, or Complement, that ever pass'd 'twixt His Majesty and the Pope, afore or after; som addresses peradventure might be made to the Cardinals, to whom the drawing of those matrimonial dispatches was referred, to quicken the work; but this was only by way of civil negotiation.

Now touching that Responsory Letter from His Majesty, it was no other than a Complement in the severest interpretation, and such formalities pass 'twixt the Crown of *England*, and the great *Turk*, and divers Heathen Princes. The *Pope* writ first, and no man can deny, but by all moral rules, and in common humane civility His Majesty was bound to answer it, specially considering how punctual they are in those Countries to correspond in this kind, how exact they are in repaying visits, and the performance of such Ceremonies: And had this compliance bin omitted, it might have made very ill impressions, as the posture of things stood then; for it had prejudiced the great work in hand, I mean, the *Match*, which was then in the heat and hight of agitation: His Majesties person was ther engag'd, and so it was no time to give the least offence. They that are never so little vers'd in busines abroad, do know that ther must be addresses, compliances, and formalities of this nature (according to the *Italian* Proverb, *That one must somtimes light a candle to the Devil*) us'd in the carriage of matters of State, as this great busines was, wheron the eyes of all Christendom were so greedily fix'd: A busines which was like to bring with it such an universall good, as the restitution of the *Palatinate*, the quenching of those hideous fiers in *Germany*, and the establishing of a peace through all the Christian World.

I hope none will take offence, that in this particular which

which comes within the compas of my knowledg, being upon the Stage when this Scene was acted, I do this right to the *King* my Maſter, in diſplaying the *Truth*, and putting her forth in her own colours, a rare thing in theſe dayes.

TOuching the *Vocal Foreſt*, an allegorical Diſcourſe, that goes abroad under my name, a good while before the beginning of this *Parlement*, which this *Gentleman* cites (and that very faithfully) I underſtand ther be ſom that mutter at certain paſſages therin, by putting ill gloſſes upon the Text, and taking with the *left* hand what I offer with the *right*: (Nor is it a wonder for Trees which lye open, and ſtand expoſed to all weathers, to be nipt) But I deſire this favour, which in *common* juſtice, I am ſure in the Court of *Chancery*, cannot be denied me, it being the priviledg of evry Author, and a received maxim through the World, *Cujus eſt condere, ejus eſt interpretari*; I ſay, I crave this favour, to have leave to expound my own Text, and I doubt not then but to rectifie any one in his opinion of me, and that in lieu of the *Plums which I give him from thoſe Trees, he will not throw the ſtones at me.*

Moreover, I deſire thoſe that are over critical Cenſurers of that Peece, to know, that as in Divinity it is a rule, *Scriptura parabolica non eſt argumentativa*; ſo it is in all other kind of knowledg, *Parables* (wherof that Diſcourſe is compoſed) *though preſſed never ſo hard, prove nothing.* Ther is another *Rule* alſo, That *Parables* muſt be gently uſed, like a Nurſes Breſt; which if you preſs too hard, you ſhall have *bloud* in ſtead of *milk*.

But as the Author of the *Vocal Foreſt* thinks he hath done, neither his *Countrey*, nor the *Commonwealth* of *Learning* any prejudice therby; (That

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maiden fancy having received so good entertainment and respect abroad, as to bee translated into divers Languages, and to gain the public approbation of som famous Universities.) So hee makes this humble protest unto all the World, that though the design of that discourse was partly *Satyrical* (which peradventure induc'd the Author to shrowd it of purpose under the shadows of *Trees*; and wher should Satyres be, but amongst Trees?) yet it never entred into his imagination to let fall from him the least thing that might give any offence to the High and Honorable Court of *Parlement*, whereof he had the honor to be once a Member, and hopes he may be thonght worthy again: And were he guilty of such an offence, or *piacle* rather, he thinks he should never forgive himself, though he were appointed his own Judge. If ther occur any passage therin, that may admit a hard construction, let the Reader observe, That the Author doth not positively assert, or passe a judgement on any thing in that Discourse which consists principally of concise, cursory narrations of the choisest Occurrences and Criticisms of State, according as the pulse of time did beat then: And matters of State, as all other sublunary things, are subject to alterations, contingencies and change, which makes the opinions and minds of men vary accordingly; not one among twenty is the same man to day as he was four yeer ago, in point of judgement, which turns and alters according to the circumstance and successe of things. And it is a true saying, whereof we find common experience, *Posterior dies est prioris Magister*. The day following is the former dayes Schoolmaster. Ther another Aphorism, *The wisdome of one day is foolishnes to another*, and 'twill be so as long as ther is man left in the World.

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I will conclude with this modeſt requeſt to that *Gentleman of the long Robe*; That having unpaſſionately perus'd what I have written in this ſmall *Diſcourſe*, in penning wherof my *conſcience* guided my *quill* all along as well as my *hand*, he would pleaſe to be ſo charitable and juſt, as to reverſe that harſh ſentence upon me, *To be no Frend to Parlements, and a Malignant.*

FINIS.